

#### A Chip off the Old Block?

No, this isn't the real Mt. Rushmore—that famous rock mountain with the faces of four U.S. Presidents carved into its side. It's a model made from Lego blocks—1,540,000 of them!

This 50-foot-tall model towers over Legoland, an amusement park in Denmark. At the park, everything is made out of Legos. It took almost three years for artist Bjorn Richter to build the model. He planned it, designed it, and put it together all by himself.

The real Mt. Rushmore in South
Dakota is over 200 feet tall, with 60foot-high Presidential faces. It took 137
people 14 years to carve the sculptures
out of one mountain-sized piece of granite.
Maybe they should have used Lego.

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ABOUT OUR COVER: Look carefully at the "spiral" design on our cover. If you trace the lines with your finger, you'll find it isn't a spiral at all! It's an optical illusion. For more about optical illusions—and why they trick us—turn to page 14.



**Diving for Bones** 

People like relaxing in Florida's Warm Mineral Springs pond because it is heated by 92-degree water from an underground hot spring. And William Cockrell, an underwater archeologist, likes the pond because it contains a mound of ancient garbage!

Some 30,000 years ago, the pond used to be a cave. But then its roof collapsed. Water filled the cave and it became a pond. Whatever was inside the cave now lies at the bottom of the pond. So, the pond contains a 106-foot mound of ancient garbage.

At the bottom of the mound are the remains of extinct animals, like saber-toothed tigers and giant ground sloths. At the top of the mound, Cockrell has spotted 20th century garbage—bandages and even an aluminum lounge chair.

Cockrell hopes to preserve the pond as an archeological site.

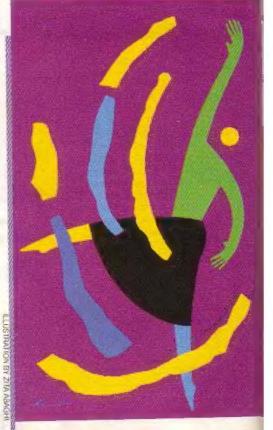
#### **Woodchuck News**

Q. How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?

A. 700 pounds—on a good day.
At least that's what Dick
Thomas says. He's a fish and
wildlife scientist who works for
the state of New York. He figured
out the answer to this old riddle
after studying woodchucks and
doing some math.

Woodchucks don't chuck (throw) wood, but they do chuck soil when they dig their burrows. Thomas figured out how much soil a woodchuck chucks.

Dick Thomas's answer to the woodchuck riddle appeared on the TV show, Jeopardy. Since then, he's been getting a lot of mail. "I even got a letter from a lady who wrote to say she had an answer to how many peppers Peter Piper picked," Thomas told CONTACT.



**Body Music** 

You may be sitting still, but your body is busy. Your heart is pumping blood. Your nerves are delivering messages all over your body. What if all this activity were set to music? What would your body sound like?

Two scientists, Hugh Lusted and Benjamin Knapp, might have the answer.

The scientists place wires on the skin of the arm. They pick up the tiny electrical signals sent by the nerves. A computer reads the signals and translates the signals to a musical pitch. Then, an electronic keyboard plays the music.

The research is still in an early stage. But, so far, the two scientists have found that a tensed muscle produces high notes. And a relaxed muscle produces low notes.

Move over body language, it's time to play body music!



#### **Manny the Robot**

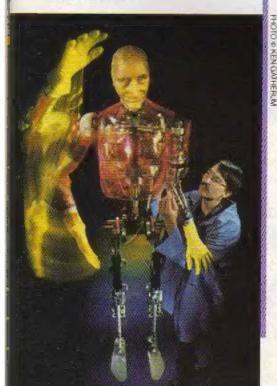
Manny the Robot is so lifelike, he sweats. He also walks, sits, bends and crawls.

It's Manny's job to help scientists test protective clothing for special jobs. For example, fire-fighters need clothing that will protect them from the heat of fire. If the clothes protect Manny the robot, then they will also protect the firefighters.

The scientists who designed Manny wanted him to be able to copy human movement very closely. So, they watched videos of people exercising. Then they programmed Manny to do the same kinds of movements.

The more Manny does, the more Manny "sweats." For instance, if Manny walks up stairs, heaters warm Manny's "skin." Manny "sweats" by squirting water through tiny tubes.

What does a robot do after a hard day of bending, squatting, climbing and sweating? Absolutely nothing.





#### **Camels on the Range**

About 100 years ago, lush green grass grew all over the U.S. Southwest. Now, much of the Southwest is desert. Instead of green grass, spiky shrubs grow everywhere.

For years, scientists have been trying to bring the grass back. But first they had to get rid of the hardy desert shrubs that had overtaken the plains.

Scientists tried expensive machinery and poisonous chemicals. Nothing worked. So, they tried camels. Camels?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) brought in eight camels from Australia to munch on the shrubs.

Sheep and cattle won't touch the spiky plants, but camels have tough mouths. "They will eat things you wouldn't want to pick up in your hand," says Dean Anderson, a scientist at USDA.

It's too early to tell how the visitors like their new home on the range. But soon people might be singing...where the deer and the antelope and the camel play.

#### **Red in the Face**

It's Monday. The day of your oral report. Standing in front of your class makes you really nervous. You can feel yourself blushing. You feel embarrassed. But scientists say that other people will like you more if you blush than if you keep your cool.

Roland Miller, a scientist at Sam Houston State University, asked students to do embarrassing things. They had to sing "The Star Spangled Banner" or dance—in front of another person.

The people who watched the students preferred the students who got embarrassed easily over the ones who performed without getting embarrassed.

What does this tell you? Don't be embarrassed about being embarrassed!



#### So What's New?

You tell us and you'll get a nifty CONTACT T-shirt—if we print your story. Send us any science story from the news that you think our readers would like to know about. (Be sure to tell us your T-shirt size and where you heard the story.) Send to:

TNT/3-2-1 CONTACT Magazine 1 Lincoln Plaza New York, NY 10023

# ET THE GUIDTINES! WHAT'S HEW AT AMUSEMENT PA Video-simulated rides make riders hold on tight -even though they're barely moving. by Don Elish a meteor shower! The rocket lurches left! Then

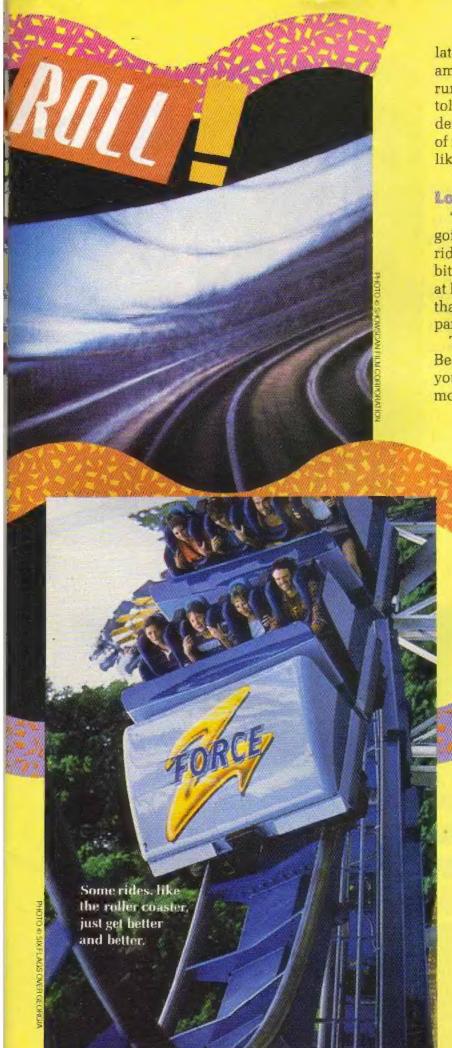
You enter an empty room and sit in a chair. The lights go out. A huge screen lights up before your eyes. It takes up your whole line of vision. Suddenly, you see a picture of a landscape rushing by as the sound of wind whips past your ears. You're about to travel faster than you ever have before.

But there's no time to think about that now—because suddenly you're flying! You grab a joy-stick and pull it toward you. Your ship lurches away from Earth. You feel as though you are on a rocket riding through space! Watch out! There's

a meteor shower! The rocket lurches left! Then right! Only through your lightning quick reflexes are you able to avoid a crash.

Racing toward you are six alien ships with their lasers set to kill! As casually as if you were going to the corner store, you swing your ship around, shoot the aliens out of the sky, and glide back to Earth for a smooth landing. You leave your craft with the cool confidence that belongs to those few who have faced the dangers of space—and lived to tell about it.

Sound like fun? Well, in 10 years "video-simu-



lated rides" like this will be all the rage at amusement parks. As Bob Maxwell, who helps run Six Flags Amusement Park in Atlanta, GA, told CONTACT: "Video-simulated rides are definitely the rides of the future." In these kinds of rides, a series of special effects makes you feel like you're moving—without moving at all.

#### Look Ma, No Hands!

"Video-simulated rides give the feeling of going down a very steep drop. The chair the rider is in only has to be tipped forward a little bit," explains Peter Schnabel. He is an engineer at Intiman's Ride Manufacturer, the company that makes about 90 percent of all amusement park rides.

The video-simulated rides create an illusion. Because the images on the screen look so real, your brain is easily fooled. You feel the slight movement of the chair, wind whistling in your

ears and your hand on the joy-stick. Your eyes do the rest. They tell the brain that you are moving very fast. They also alert your brain to danger. The illusion works because that's the way your brain functions in real life. It receives information from your eyes, ears and body—and puts it all together. As far as your senses are concerned, you are flying through space!

The engineers at Intiman's are so good at making you feel as though you are riding through space, they have to make absolutely sure they don't overdo it. As Schnabel told CONTACT: "In some of these rides, the simulation is so real that some people come out of the booth with marks on their hands from holding on so tightly."

#### Back to the Drawing Board

But video-simulated rides are only one type of new ride being developed. Many others are still on the drawing board. Walt Disney Company has a whole department entirely devoted to the development of new rides and attractions.

"It's a creative process that needs an engineer's mind," says Dave Harbaugh, a Disney engineer. That's because an engineer can tell right away whether it's possible to build something

—and make a good idea into a fabulous ride.

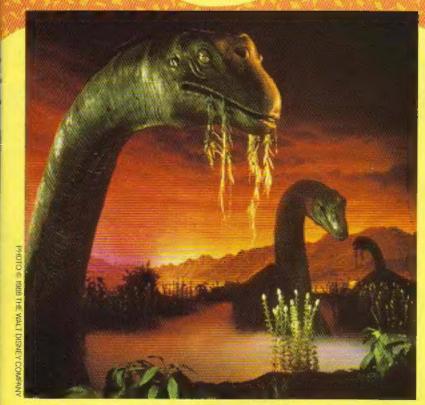
Disney's newest project is "Norway Pavilion" where passengers can take a voyage on a Viking ship. The ships cruise through raging seas and lands populated by trolls—supernatural giants. In building this ride, the designers worked hard to give the public lots of thrills. But they also wanted to make sure the riders would be safe.

Safety is the most important concern of every ride-maker. Each new ride is tested by a professional pilot who is used to withstanding a lot of pressure from fast starts, hairpin turns and stomach-churning spirals. Peter Schnabel told CONTACT: "The pilots help us set the rides at proper speeds." They also get advice from doctors. "We have to figure out how much excitement the ride should create. We don't want anyone to get sick."

#### Anybody Sees My Wife?

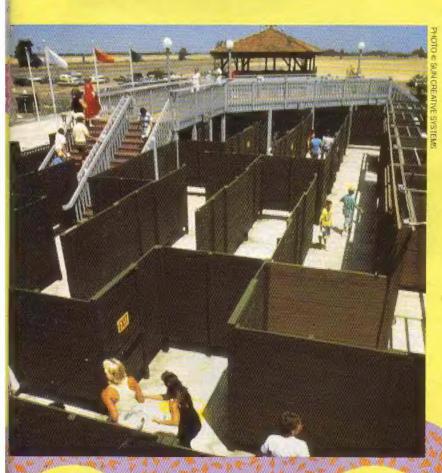
One new kind of "ride" (well, it's not really a ride) is the "Wooz" in Vanaville, CA. The Wooz





**Above:** Take a ride through history and brush up against these dinos at Disney's *A Universe of Energy Theatre*.

Left: You can't beat a water ride on a hot summer day.



is a huge outdoor maze that covers an acre of ground. Here's how it works: The customer punches a timeclock and enters a maze, a zigzagging course of seven-foot-high wood panels. If the "Woozer" can get to the other end in less than 40 minutes, he or she gets to try a harder course for free.

Larry Friday, who works at the Wooz, explained to CONTACT: "To be good at the Wooz takes a lot of concentration and a good sense of direction. It also takes a competitive spirit."

To make sure that the customers keep coming back, every few weeks a computer prints out a new way to arrange the course. Friday told CONTACT: "What the Wooz is really about is fun and games."

Recently the Wooz was used for more than just fun and games—a couple got married in it! As Larry Friday told CONTACT: "The bride entered on one side and the groom on the other. They met in the middle and had the ceremony!"

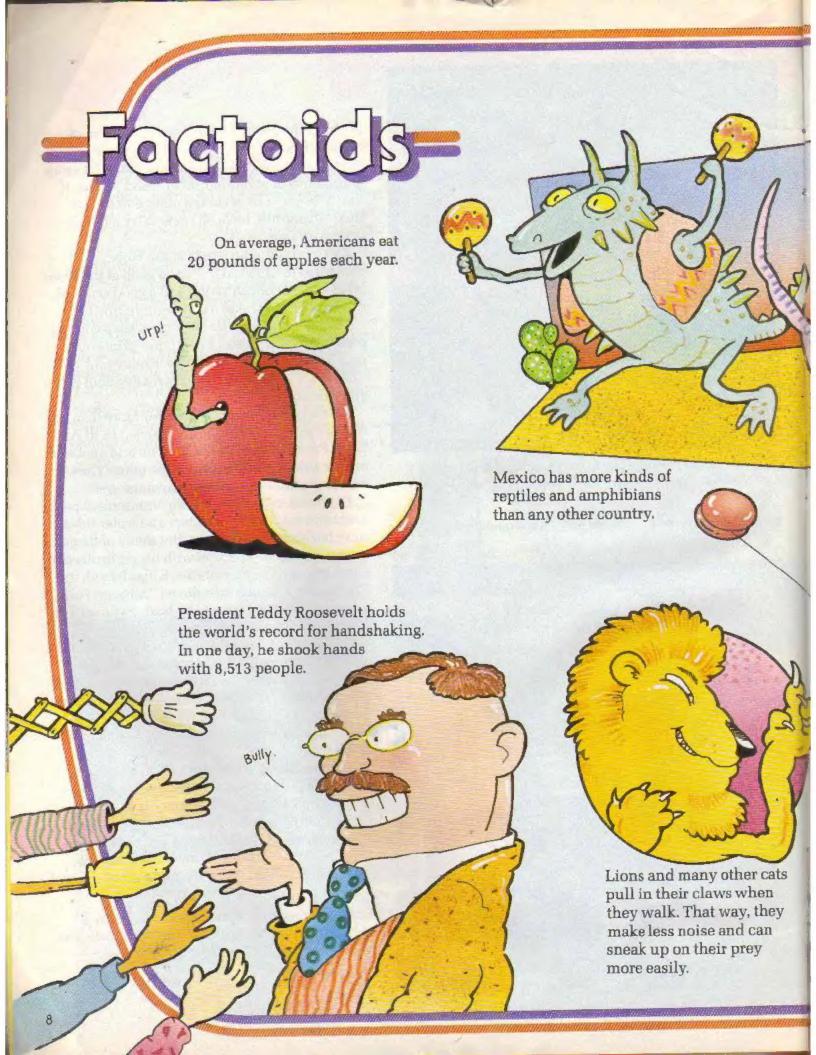
Of course, not all the rides at amusement parks are brand new. Roller coasters and water rides have been around for years. But many of them have a new look—packed with bigger thrills and some wet spills. For example, Kings Island, in Cincinnati, OH, just introduced "Amazon Falls," where 20 people sit in a large boat, go down a 50-foot drop, and make 20-foot waves!

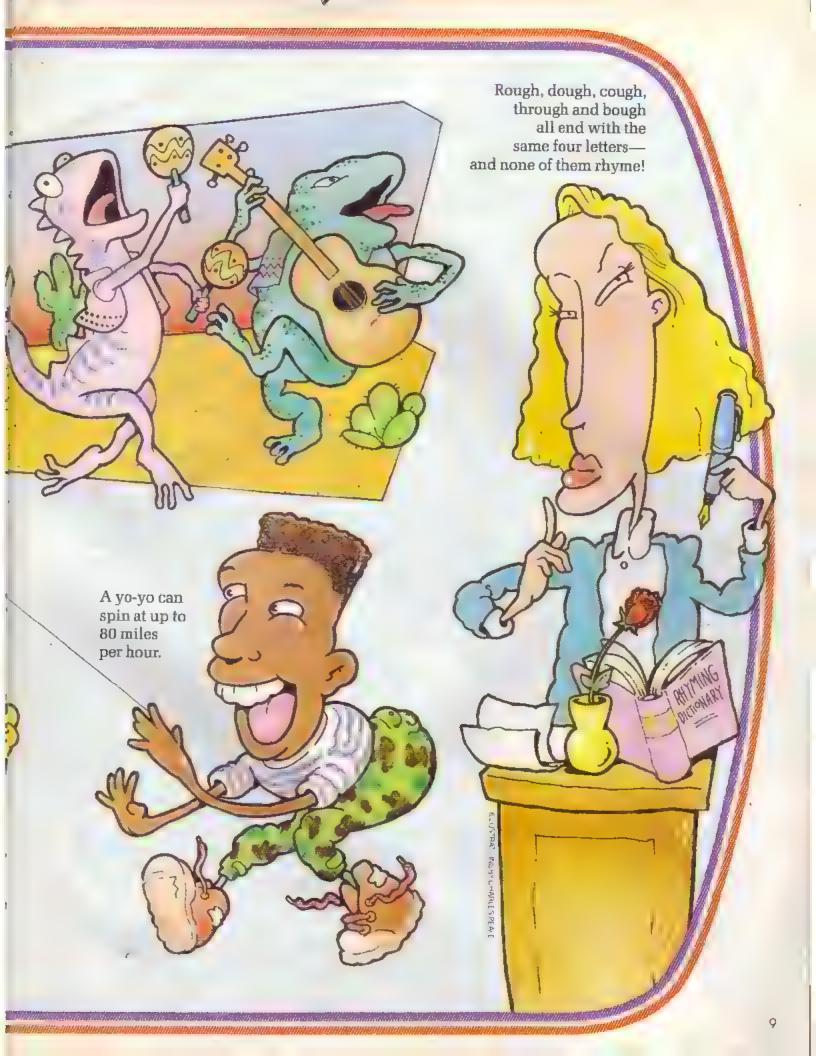
Bill Medford, an official at the park, told CON-TACT: "We measured where the waves went. Then we built walkways above the water so people could get wet if they wanted—without actually going on the ride." Now, visitors to Kings Island can get a free shower along with the price of admission!

And Six Flags, in Atlanta, GA, just opened "ZFORCE"—a giant roller coaster that lifts passengers up 74 feet. Then it immediately dives into a sharp downward spiral. The spirals and corkscrew dives imitate flying in a stunt plane.

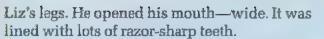
So, next time you go to the amusement park, hang onto your hat. You're in for a wild ride!

**Left:** If you ever wondered what being *inside* a maze is like...try the *Wooz*. And bring a friend—you might be a-mazed at how hard it is to get out.





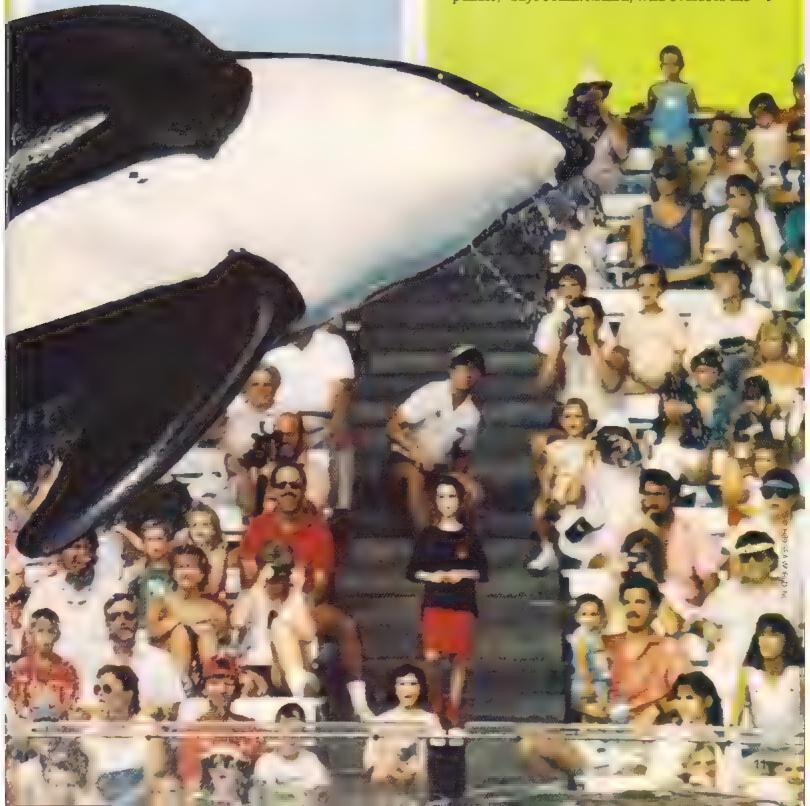




Liz Morris was in the middle of answering a question about training techniques. She didn't even flinch. "He just wants attention," she told us. And right on cue, the huge killer whale started whining, whimpering and singing. He sounded more like a puppy than a whale. Liz Morris reached down to rub his fin.

Between the two of them, Liz Morris and Al Kordowski could tell you anything you wanted to know about the six whales they work with. They train, perform, feed and play with them. And recently, the trainers helped one of the whales—Kandu—with the birth of her calf—newer Baby Shamu.

The trainers share what they learn with veterinarians and scientists who care for and study the animals. "Everything we learn is a piece of a puzzle," says Frank Murru, who oversees the



care of all the animals at Sea World. Every piece of the puzzle teaches vets and scientists something more about how the killer whales communicate, how they care for their young, and how they behave with each other.

Audiences at the shows learn something about killer whales, too. "Everything the whales do in the show is typical behavior in the wild," says Frank. At Sea World, the whales leap out of the water and slide on a concrete slab. In the wild, the whales leap out of the water and slide up on ice floes—mostly when they are lunching on an unsuspecting seal. In the wild the whales communicate with each other through sound. In the show, many of the signals are given by tones under water.

#### Tricks of the Trade

The killer whale trainers have the closest relationship to the whales of all the people who work at Sea World. Developing that relationship takes years. All has trained whales for 13 years and Liz has trained them for seven. Both trainers agree that one of the keys to training is to get to know each of the whales personally, well, make that "whalesonally."

"One of whales is very laid back, very slow

moving and slow learning. But he has a very good attitude. He's like a teddy bear. Another is very curious, quick to pick up on things. He likes to chase people and stick his tongue out at them," says Liz Morris.

Once the trainers get to know the whales, they figure out how each whale likes to be rewarded. And it's not only a reward of food that a whale is looking for. In fact, the whales prefer attention. "They respond to having their bellies rubbed, to laughing and clapping," says Liz Morris.

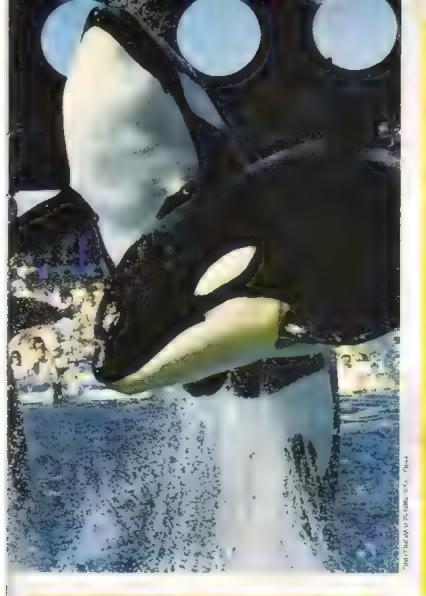
#### Whaley Want a Cracker?

Learning to become a whale trainer takes several years. For the first year, the trainer-to-be does not even get in the water! That's because the whales need to get used to the trainers. "It's a real 50-50 relationship," says Al. The trainers must earn the respect of the whales. "When a new trainer starts, the whales get what we call substitute teacher syndrome." When a substitute teacher takes over a class for the day, some students try to see what they can get away with. It's much the same with the whales. "The whales want to see how far they can push new trainers and how much they know," Liz Morris adds.

The new trainer might signal a whale to do a

Right: Trainer Liz Morris gives Shamu a little attention and a belly rub.





dowski. "As a reward for Shamu, we asked the performer to come back—wearing the glow-in-the-dark dress—and she played with him."

#### Tigers of the Sea

In the wild, killer whales are at the top of the food chain. That doesn't mean they are the biggest. It means they have no natural enemies. The whales travel in packs, called pods, and can attack and eat whales 10 times bigger than themselves. They also feast on seals, penguins and fish. But killer whales are very gentle with humans. Why? "Man is not one of their typical foods," says Frank.

Whatever scientists learn about whales in the wild can be used to make the captive whales more comfortable. "In the wild, the pods are made up of females, young adults and baby whales. Males are not really part of the pod. We have a similar setup here," says Frank Murru. "Shamu doesn't like to be with the females for too long. The females hassle him." So, the trainers make sure that the whales can roam wherever they want in the giant pool. Gates divide different sections of the pool. They keep the gates open, so that the whales can choose wherever they want to go.

There's still a lot to learn about killer whales. Someday, scientists even hope to communicate with them. That'll make a whale of a story!

head shake. The whale might decide to do a flip instead, "The new trainer might act surprised. An experienced trainer wouldn't pay any attention," adds Liz.

That's because the trainers use "positive reinforcement" to teach whales to do tricks. When the whales are taught something and they do it right, they get rewarded. If they do something wrong, the trainer ignores them.

One important fact that scientists have discovered about killer whales is that they are always exploring their surroundings. The whales are very curious and get excited when something unexpected happens. So, the trainers keep the whales' life interesting. "They keep the whales guessing. And the whales do new things to see how the trainer reacts," says Frank Murru.

When people from Cypress Gardens, a nearby amusement park, performed at Sea World, the trainers noticed that the whales were fascinated by one performer's glow-in-the dark dress, "The whales all watched her walk by," says Al Kor-

Above: Everything the killer whales do in the show—including leaping—is natural behavior for them in the wild.

**Below:** Al Kordowski has a short conversation with a walrus at Sea World.





#### By Russell Ginns

When you read the title of this story, did you notice something funny? Go back and read it again. Still don't see anything? Now read it very carefully, one word at a time. Aha! The word "THE" is printed twice. It's an illusion, and unless you know exactly what you're looking for, it will probably fool you again and again.

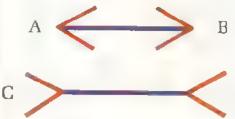
Illusions can make you believe that something is bigger or smaller than it really is. They can also make colors seem brighter or darker, and can even make you see things that aren't really there. But these pictures are doing more than just playing tricks on your eyes, they're fooling your brain as well

"Illusion is the wrong word for it," says David Van Essen, a scientist at California's Institute of Technology. "It's really a misunderstanding between your eyes and your brain." Your eyes are the parts of your body that collect information, but it's your brain that really decides what you see. And sometimes your brain can make a wrong decision.

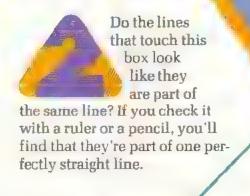
Van Essen told CONTACT:
"When you look at something,
your brain tends to fill in the missing
spaces." Many optical illusions are
simple drawings with lots of missing
details. Your brain makes mistakes as it
fills in the spaces and—presto! You're
seeing something that really isn't there.

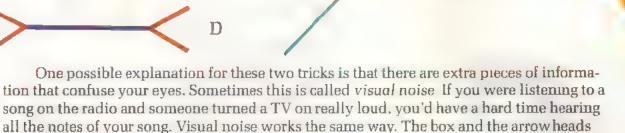
Van Essen and other scientists are using optical illusions to learn more about how animals and humans see To help you do some visual experiments of your own, we've put together a collection of optical tricks for you to try. There are explanations for some of them Others remain pretty much a mystery. So sit back, relax and open your eyes, as CONTACT takes you on a tour of the mysterious world of optical illusions.

Look at these two arrows. Does the line from C to D seem longer than the line frem A to B? If you measure them with a ruler, you'll find that they are exactly the same length. This is easy to see just by taking away the arrowheads. If you cover them, the illusion disappears.

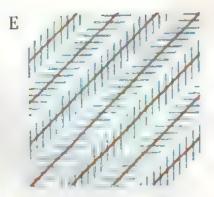


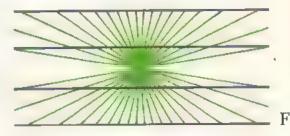
make it hard to see the lines correctly





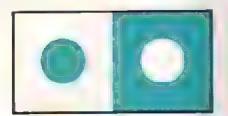
Here are two drawings with even more noise. Can you tell if the lines in picture E are parallel? Do the two lines in picture F look curved? Check them with a ruler If the extra lines weren't there, it would be easy to see that the lines are all parallel. But unless you concentrate very hard, the noise will fool you again and again.





Take a look at these two circles. Does the white circle seem larger than the blue one?

That's because of contrast, which means that an object will appear to change, depending on its surroundings. Bright images seem to spread out a little on a dark background. In the same way, a bright background seems to get bigger, making a dark object look smaller. Advertisers sometimes take advantage of this trick. By making a package a bright color, advertisers can make a product seem a little bigger than it actually is. (You've never seen a black cereal box in the stores, have you?)



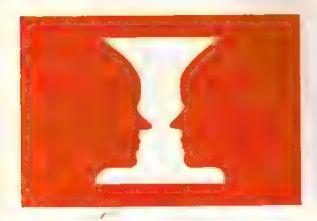
Contrast can also make shades and colors seem lighter or darker. Look at the green stripes. The ones on the left seem brighter, even though they are exactly the same as the ones on the right.





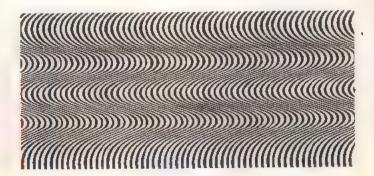
You can even change the way that something looks by surrounding it with itself. When you stare at this grid, do you see gray spots where the white lines meet? These "ghost spots" show up because white looks less bright when it is surrounded by all white.

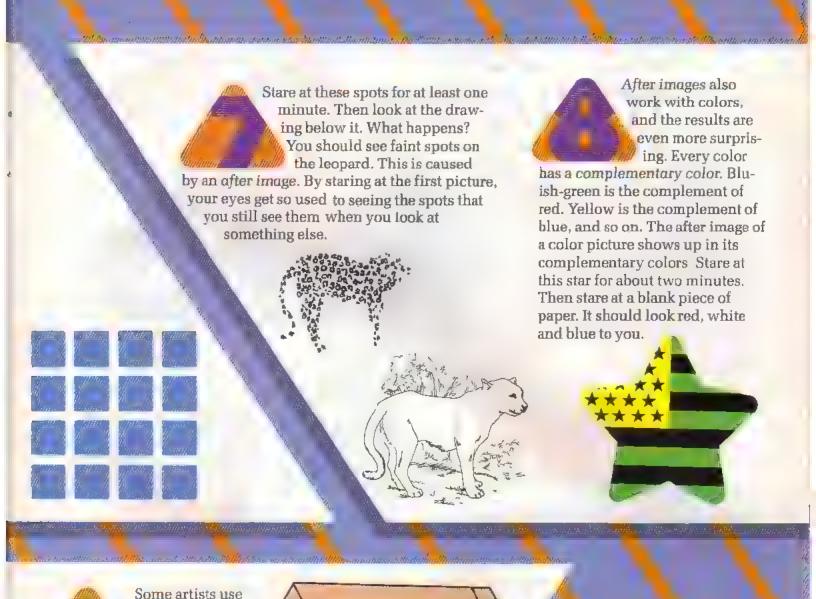
Some illusions happen because your eyes can't decide which is the correct way to see something. When you look at this picture, do you see two faces or a vase? If you concentrate, you can switch back and forth between the two images.

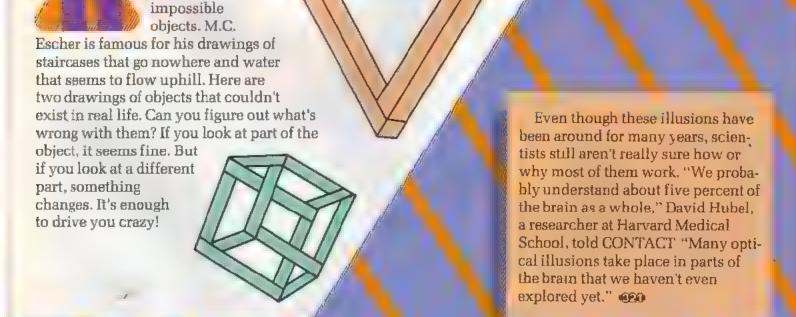


The same trick can be used to give the viewer a feeling of motion.
When your eyes can't choose between backgrounds, the picture will seem to vibrate.

Does this drawing seem like it's moving? That's because your eyes keep changing between backgrounds. At first it looks like the picture is white on black—then it's black on white.







this effect to create fantastic scenes or



Here are some optical tricks that you can try on yourself and your friends. Be patient, it might

take a few minutes to get each of these illusions to work right:

#### Free Food!

Point your index fingers together and hold your hands about six inches from your nose. Then look past your fingers at something across the room. A hot dog will seem to float between your fingers. If you slowly move your fingers apart, the hot dog will get shorter and then disappear.

#### Free Money!

Take two pennies and hold them between your index fingers. Quickly move them back and forth against each other. An extra penny will appear out of nowhere!

#### A Hole in Your Hand

Roll a piece of paper into a tube and hold it close to your right eve. Hold your left hand next to the tube with your palm facing you. Keeping both eves open, focus on an object a few feet away. It should look like your left hand has a hole in it!

#### Crazy Paper

Take a small piece of paper and fold it lengthwise.

Open it a little and stand it on a table. Then close one of your eyes and stare straight down at it. After a while, you won't be able to tell if you're looking at the inside or the outside of the paper!







#### **Keep Smiling**

Dear CONTACT,

In your Jan./Feb. 1989 issue, your instructions showed how to make the eyes on the Smiley face, but I couldn't figure out how to make the mouth without picking up my pencil.

Sydney Gould Walnut Creek, CA

You can make the mouth the same way that you made the eyes. After you've drawn both of the eyes, slide your pencil to the back side of the paper again. Then fold a corner that touches a little above the bottom of the circle. Move your pencil to that corner and use it as a starting point to draw the smile.

#### **Bookkeeping**

Dear CONTACT.

In the July/August 1988 FAC-TOIDS, you said that "BOOK-KEEPER" was the only English word with three sets of double letters right after one another. That's wrong. "BOOKKEEPING" also has three sets of double letters.

Cynthia Millsap Woodstown, NI

You're right. There are two words. "BOOKKEEPING" is the 10b of a "BOOKKEEPER."

Thanks Cynthia, you'd probably make a good bookkeeper. Or perhaps a writer!

#### Mame Sake

Dear CONTACT.

How are you connected to the TV show "3-2-1 Contact?" Also, where does the name 3-2-1 Contact come from?

Serena Jones Washington, DC Serena, we have the same name because we started at the same time and we covered much of the same amazing science stuff including the Bloodhound Gang.

The name comes from the theme song from the show. It means the point where "contact" or understanding begins and things start to happen.

#### **CONTEST ROUNDUP**

#### Valentine Contest

Jenny and Kathryn Peterson of Austin, TX were the first place winners of our Jan./Feb. 1989 Valentine's Day Contest. Using the letters that make up the word "VALENTINE," they were able to spell 307 different words!

Our other winners were:

Michelle Mraz of Clarion, IA (251 words)/Dawn Rutan of Newburg, PA (235 words)/Scott Navarre of Colby, WI (225 words)/Louis Eisenberg of Chapel Hill, NC (215 words)

#### Who's This?

Our December 1988 "Who's This?" contest flooded our offices. &

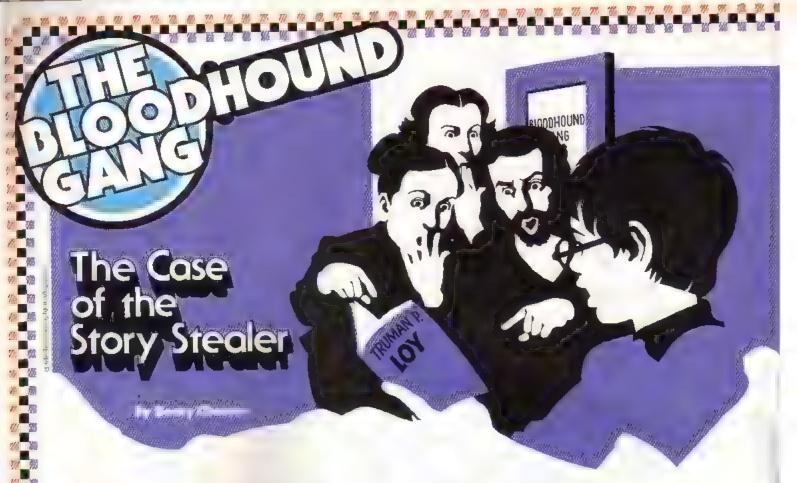
10,000 of you were quick to tell us that the mystery person was Leonard Nimoy, who played Mr. Spock on the TV series Star Trek—and in the movies. These were the first five people to write in:

Kelly Kossegi, Manassas, VA Teresa Huang, Bath, NY Ericka Martin, Flagstaff, AZ Joel Harrison, Abernathy, TX Joey Jacobellis, Fremont, NH









He had his feet up on the desk and his nose buried in a Truman P. Loy mystery. It was a lazy summer day, and he had the office all to himself.

For about 10 seconds.

Just then, two women and a man burst into the office. "This is the detective agency, isn't it?" said one of the women. "We need—'

She stopped short. "Oh, no," she said, "you're reading that...."

Skip looked at the book in his hand, then quickly tossed it onto the desk. "Oh, sure I'm reading a Truman P. Loy mystery—but that's only because you guys haven't published anything in a while."

He stood up and stuck out his hand. "Gertrude Flanders, Maxwell Chambers, Sonia Burke—you're some of my favorite mystery writers! It's an honor to meet you."

"Thank you," answered Maxwell through clenched teeth. "But unless you catch Truman P. Loy, you won't read a new book by us again."

"I don't understand," said Skip.

"It's simple," said Sonia. "Mr. Loy, whoever he is, is stealing our books word for word!"

#### **Book Crook**

Sonia explained that each of their last novels had been turned down by their publisher. The reason? Truman P. Loy had already sent in the same book. And the publisher refused to tell them Truman P. Loy's real name.

After listening to the details of the case, Skip phoned Vikki and Ricardo. They made plans to visit each writer's house that afternoon. The first stop was Gertrude Flanders.

Gertrude showed them to a small cluttered study. After serving ice cold lemonade, she explained that she had no idea how her work could have been stolen.

"I say my stories out loud and my secretary writes them down," she explained. "He types them, and I make corrections. The book never leaves this room and I keep the door locked."

There was a knock at the door. In walked a young man with a green parrot on his shoulder.

"Arnold," said Gertrude, "the Bloodhound Gang. Arnold Wittle, my secretary. And that's my parrot, Edgar Allan Poe."

"Nevermore!" squawked the parrot.

"Arnold's going to be a fine mystery writer of his own, one day," Gertrude went on.

"Oh," Arnold mumbled, "I doubt that. Everything I write gets rejected."

"Arnold stole your book! Arnold stole your book!" screeched the parrot.

"Oh, Edgar," laughed Gertrude, "Really. Arnold has worked for us for years."

Vikki was examining the locks on the windows. They looked secure. She turned to Gertrude. "Who else has been in this room?"

"Practically no one," said Gertrude. But as the Gang questioned her, she came up with a number of suspects,

Ted Ryan, her agent, came by often. A housepainter had recently painted the whole house, including the study. Graham Travers, Gertrude's ex-husband and a mystery writer, came by once. And Joe and Ray, two college students who did housecleaning over the summer, cleaned Gertrude's house once a month.

Skip, who had been taking notes, now closed his notebook with a bang. Ricardo jumped.

"Nice going," snapped Ricardo.

"Sorry," said Skip. "Ms. Flanders, we'll get back to you as soon as we can."

he Real Suspect
Four hours later, the Gang met in Skip's
living room to go over the evidence they

had collected so far. Like Gertrude, Maxwell

Chambers and Sonia Burke had both guarded their new novels carefully.

"Read back our list of suspects," said Vikki.
"It's a long one," said Skip.

Maxwell had told them that several people had been in his study while he was writing. Arnold, Gertrude's secretary, had done some typing for him. Ted Ryan, his agent, visited often. He had had his whole house repainted, including the study. And Joe and Ray came once a month, to clean.

Sonia Burke said her new boyfriend came by often—Graham Travers. Then there was her secretary, Matt. She had had her study repainted. Her agent, Fred Swift, visited twice.

"Whew," said Ricardo, wiping his forehead with his shirtsleeve. "Where do we start?"

"That's simple," said Vikki. "We only have one suspect!"



STOP—CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHO VIKKI MEANS? WHO IS THE ONE SUSPECT WHO WAS NAMED BY ALL THREE WRITERS?

"One suspect!" said Ricardo. "Are you deaf?"

"I know what she's getting at," said Skip.

"Whoever stole the books had to have been able to get into all three studies. So we can cross off anyone who isn't a suspect on all three lists."

With Ricardo leaning over his shoulder, he took his pencil and started crossing off names. "That leaves..."

"The painter," cried Ricardo.

"Now all we need to figure out is how he does it," said Skip.

"And we need proof," added Vikki.

"Hmm," said Skip. "How much money do we have in our budget? I think it might be time to give our office a paint job."

aying a Trap

"The detective slowly opened the door to his office..." said Ricardo.

Skip scribbled furiously in his notebook, writing down everything Ricardo said. Behind him, a man stood on a ladder, painting. Ricardo glanced at the painter as he went on:

"The detective flicked on the light and almost gasped. But he was Max Diamond. It took more than the sight of a live 300-pound gorilla to make him gasp."

"That's great," said Skip.

The phone rang and Ricardo answered.

"How's it going?" Vikki asked on the phone.

"Hi, Bill," Ricardo said. Holding his hand over the receiver, he said to Skip, "It's my publisher."

23

"Don't forget to leave him alone in the office for a while," said Vikki on the phone.

"I won't," said Ricardo. "After all, if I don't get the book done on time, I don't get my thirty thousand dollars, right?"

An hour later, Ricardo and Skip announced they were taking a lunch break. They left the painter alone in the office. Skip took his notepad with him.

That night, after the painter left, the Gang gathered to search the room. After an hour of looking, they still had found nothing. To pick up their spirits, Skip went out and bought soda pop for everyone.

"Ah," said Ricardo, guzzling cola, "this beats solving a case any day."



"I'm still convinced he planted a tape recorder somewhere in this room," said Vikki.

"Vikki," said Skip, "while we were writing, did you check out the painter's house?"

"Yeah. No one was home, so I couldn't get in. He's got a cool house, though."

"How so?" asked Ricardo, fanning himself with a magazine.

"His third floor looks like it has windows. But when you get up near the house you can see that the windows are just painted on the wall. It's a fine example of trompe l'oeil."

"Trump loy?" asked Ricardo.

"It's French," said Skip. "It means to deceive the eye. It's the name for the style of painting that creates an illusion of reality."

"Wait a minute," said Ricardo. "The author

we're looking for calls himself Truman P. Loy."

"Trompe l'oeil!" said everyone together.

"But where does that get us?" said Ricardo.
Slurping the last of his soda pop, Skip lobbed
the empty can at the trash basket under Vikki's
desk. It hit with a thud and seemed to bounce off
the air!

The Gang hurried to Vikki's desk. They found the leg space covered with a piece of painted cardboard.

"Look at that," said Ricardo, running his hand over the painting. "It looks just like the space under the desk. He painted the carpet and the wastebasket. He even put in the shadow for the underside of the desk. It looks real."

Skip pried off the cardboard. Behind it, on the floor under Vikki's desk, was a tape-recorder. The reels were slowly turning. The machine was recording.

"I'm going to call the police," said Vikki.

"What good will that do?" a voice asked.

Vikki whirled around. Standing in the doorway was Gertrude Flanders, with Poe, her parrot, on her shoulder.

"It is the painter," said Vikki. "And we've got proof."

"Now that is marvelous news," said Gertrude, smiling broadly.

"Marvelous!" chirped Poe.

"We've cleared up your mystery," said Skip, "but I bet you can't clear up this one." He handed her a notepad

"What is it?" asked Gertrude.

"The mystery story Ricardo made up today!"

(1)



FUN AT SUMMER VACATIONS SQUARE Car Clifat

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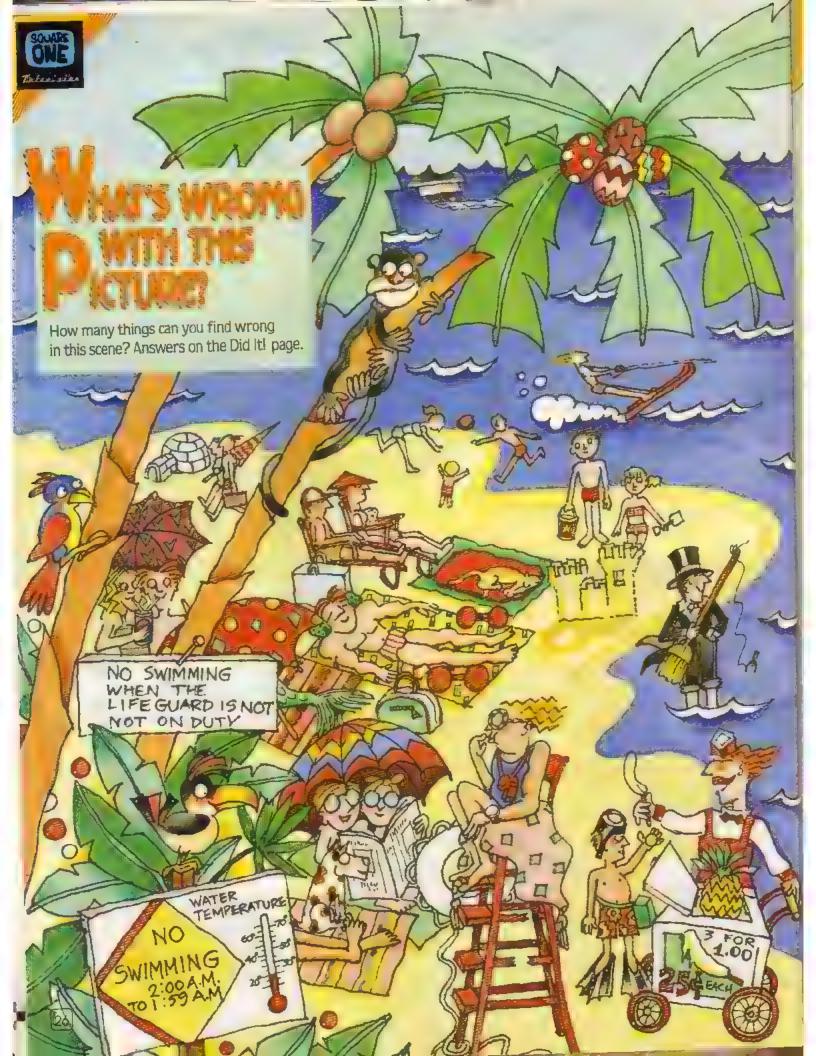
Hi! Bob the Weather Cat here, coming to you live from poolside. For tomorrow I predict:

- 8 hours will be partly sunny
- 4 purfect hours with nothing but sun
- 8 hours will be partly cloudy
- I 2 hours of nighttime

Hmm, that adds up to 32 hours in one day. Where did I go wrong?

Answer on the Did it! page.







## FAMILY



#### THE EATIN FAMILY IN A SQUARE CHE PUZZZLE!

STORY: ELIZABETH KEYISHIAN ART: KEITH WILSON



























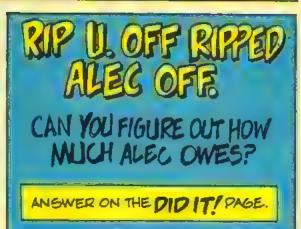












## SQUARE ONE

Before they left for summer vacation, we asked some kids.
"What's your favorite brain teaser?

URNTS TO KNOW

Can you solve these summer time stumpers? If you can't, take a trip to the Did It! page for the answers.

1

### PETER

You're nding
In a bus that is
facing west
After an hour.
you're 50 miles east of where you started.
How could this happen?



## ELIZABETH

It costs 3¢ to
make a glass
of lemonade.
You make 50
glasses and sell them all for 10¢. Whats
your profit?

9

#### KRISTIAN QUADRINI

Which weighs more: A pound of sand or a pound of sea water?



#### FRANK LEDONNE

Which month has 28 days?

3

#### (OCO JERVIS

Ruth, Amy and
Eve are the
only people on
a beach. Amy's
mother is there. So is Eve's. Amy and Eve
are not sisters. How can this be?



#### NELSON COLLAZO

Put two X's into this equation so that both sides are equal 2 3 0 = 5 1 0





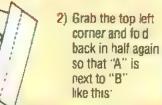
Pack your bags and get ready for another ...

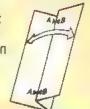


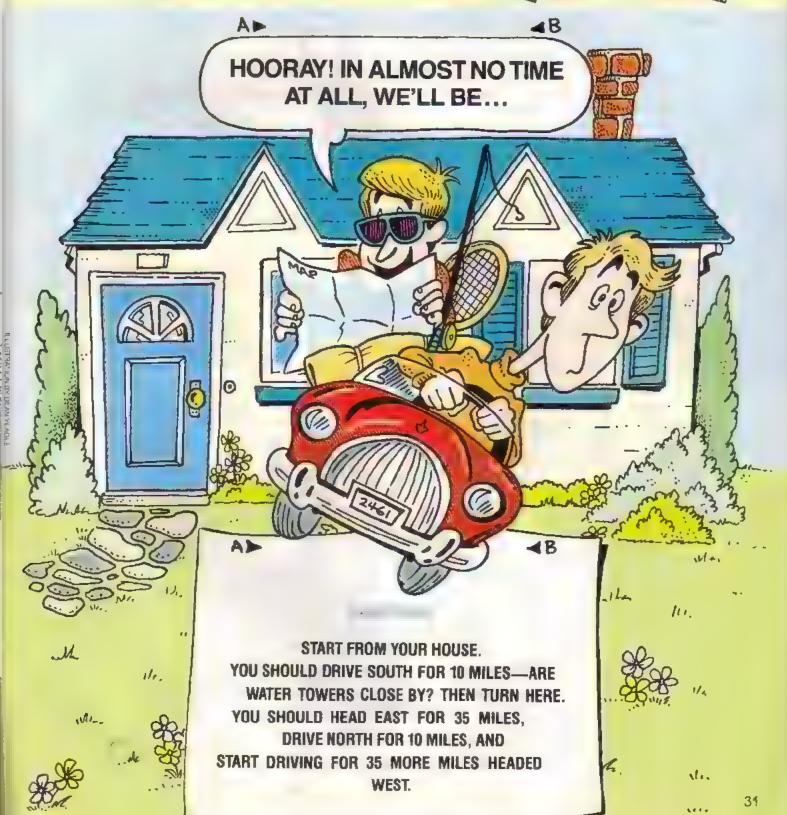
## SQUARE ONE FOLD-IN

Eric and Ray are trying to get to the Poison Ivy
Campgrounds. But there's something wrong with their
directions! By studying the directions, can you figure out where
they'll end up? For the answer, fold in the page as shown.

HOW TO FOLD IT: 1) Fold the page in half like this.









by Penny Kaganoff

How does a refrigerator

**WORK?** For a clue to your answer, reach behind your refrigerator. Feel the air near the coils there. It's warm! Those warm coils are part of a cycle. This process takes heat right out of your refrigerator and everything in there, too. Here's how:

Orange juice and milk aren't the only liquids in your fridge. There's another one called refrigerant. This liquid travels through the pipes inside. At one point along the way, it changes into a gas. As it evaporates, it absorbs heat from the food inside. That cools everything off.

Now the cycle continues. The gas goes through more pipes to another part of the refrigerator. There it will be changed back to a liquid refrigerant. After that happens it is ready to absorb more heat.

What happens to the heat already collected? That is passed right out the back of the refrigerator! Pretty cool, huh?

Question sent in by Sarah Hauschild, Tacoma, WA.



What are fingernails made

Your nails are hard and tough. They have to be to protect your fingers and toes. What makes them so tough? The same material found in animal claws, hooves, horns and beaks! It's something called keratin (KER-uh-tin).

Hidden below each of your nails is its root.
The cells in the root give off keratin all the time.
The keratin collects and pushes up old keratin that is in the way. As it does, the stuff dries and hardens into a solid plate. Your nails are growing!

Your nails grow all the time. A typical fingernail will grow about a sixth of an inch (.4 cm) in a month. Over a lifetime, that can really add up. Shridar Chillal is living proof of that. He hasn't cut his nails in the last 29 years. His thumbnail alone is over 27 inches (68.6 cm) long!

Question sent in by Gena Beevers, Magnalia, AR.



Do you have a question that no one seems able to answer? Why not ask us? Send your question, along with your name, address, and age, to: Any Questions? 3-2-1 CONTACT P.O. Box 40 Vernon, NJ 07462

#### What is petrified wood? When a

tree dies, it usually decays and disappears. Under special circumstances, a dead tree turns into stone instead. But that takes a very, very long time.

Wood starts to petrify when it is buried in the sand, mud or ash from a volcano. In the same area, the water in the ground must be rich in minerals. This water seeps down and reaches the tree.

Minerals from the water begin to fill the empty cells in the decaying wood. Layers of minerals collect there. But the rest of the water continues to sink deeper into the ground. More and more dried-up minerals build up. Finally, they become solid stone.

Petrified wood is a kind of fossil. Like most fossils, it is very old. Some of the wood in Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park is 150 million years old.

Question sent in by Carrie Osborne, Mesa, AZ



## Can you tell how old a rattlesnake is by counting the beads on its rattle?

Who wants to get close enough to find out!
Actually, a snake's rattle is a clue to its age. A
young snake starts out with one bead on its
rattle. As the snake grows, it sheds its skin.
Everytime this happens, a new bead is added to
the rattle.

You can't use the beads to tell the exact age, however. For one thing, a snake sheds its skin three or four times a year. It all depends on how fast it's growing. If that weren't confusing enough, there is the old age problem. After a few years, a rattler's beads start to get old and brittle. Some of them fall off.

So, a snake's rattle can only tell you two things for sure. The first is that the snake is a rattler. And the second? Stay clear!

Question sent in by Mortin Meyer, Bloomington, IN





Greetings to all you computer coconuts! This is your buddy, Slipped Disk, the world-famous computer expert. Here's another column full of computer advice, words of wisdom and 14 different useful things to make out of those old oatmeal boxes you've been saving.

Speaking of boxes, my dog,
Floppy, is busy packing a few. This
summer I'm sending him to Camp
Poocheehaha. They have great activities—sock chewing, barking at cars,
and a four-hour nap every afternoon.
I think he's going to love it. I know I
did when I was a kid.

And speaking of kids, here's a question from one. She's **Kelsey Dashiell**, 11, from Queens, New York, and she wants to know:

#### "How do people measure how fast a computer is?"

Well, Kelsey, one way is to put a computer on a racetrack and see how long it takes for it to travel 400 meters. But that's probably not what you mean. You mean, how do you measure how fast a computer can compute?

There are several ways to measure a computer's speed. One way is to give two computers the same job to do and see how long it takes them to complete it. For example, you could give two computers the same list of numbers to add and see which one finished first.

Another way of telling how fast a computer works is by clock speed. You probably know that inside a computer there are millions of electronic bits—you can think of them as very tiny light bulbs that are either "on" or "off." These bits make up the computer's code. When a computer is working, these bits are changing very quickly

The computer's clock sets the speed at which the bits change. How fast do they go? An IBM XT has a clock speed of about 5 million changes or cycles per second! Some of the new PCs go even faster—they have clock speeds of about 16 million cycles per second.

And speaking of speed, let's quickly answer another question. It's from **Christopher Vincent**, 13, of Standish, Maine, and ne asks:

#### "How much computer data can a compact disk store?"

The same type of compact disks that are used to record music can also be used to store data to be used by computers. But don't try to slip your favorite heavy metal CD into the disk drive of your computer—

you need a special CD ROM drive to hook up to your PC. The CD stands for compact disk and the ROM stands for Read Only Memory.
Unlike floppy disks, you can't record anything on a CD.

A CD for a computer can hold approximately 512 megabytes of information. That's more than 512 million letters and numbers or about 100,000 typed pages. A typical floppy disk holds less than one megabyte.

The Microsoft Company publishes a CD ROM disk called Bookshelf which includes all the information in a dictionary, a thesaurus, a spelling checker, the zip code directory for the United States, the World Almanac, plus some other information. All on one disk!

And speaking of dictionaries, I think I'm going to pack one for Floppy to help him when he writes me from Camp Poocheehaha. And don't you forget to write, either! Send your computer questions to:

The Slipped Disk Show 3-2-1 CONTACT Magazine 1 Lincoln Plaza, New York, NY 10023 Have a great summer!

Slipped Disk's favorite camp song is "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," but he always forgets the words.

## Reviews

#### Locks

#### Gruesome Games

By Shoo Rayner Peter Bedrick Books \$12.95

Watch out! This book is full of games—and the games are full of monsters! All you need are dice, some coins and a few friends. Then you'll be ready to take on Count Dracula, snakes, ghosts, mummies and the Big Bad Wolf.

In the game "Rat Race," the object is to get to the city dump without being eaten by crocodiles. In "Pharaoh's Curse," you try to be the first player to escape from a pyramid. Some of the games only need one person to play. Others can be played by as many as eight people at one time. There are 12 different games in all.

"Gruesome Games" isn't really scary. In fact, we thought that most of it was very silly. But you'll have hours of fun with this big book of games. —Russell Ginns



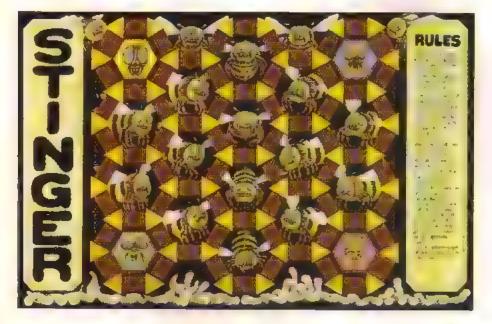
#### **Rewind to Yesterday**

by Susan Beth Pfeffer Delacorte Press \$13.95

When the Forrest family gets a VCR, 11-year-old Kelly and her twin brother Scott are delighted. At last they'll be able to tape their favorite TV series. And Mom is thrilled because she can tape old Humphrey Bogart movies

But as Kelly discovers, there's more to the family's VCR than just taping TV shows. The machine's rewind button can send people 24 hours back in time!

The only ones who know about the machine's amazing power are Scott and Kelly's best friend, Miri. At first, the young explorers just goof around with time travel. But then Miri's grandfather is shot in a hold-up. Can the kids go back in time and change the course of events to help save Pop? You'll have to read this funny, exciting and well-written book to find out! Jonathan Bosenbloom



#### Boftware

#### Othello

Acclaim Software For Nintendo Systems \$34.95

Here's a great strategy game that you can play with a friend or against your computer. It's based on the popular board game that's been around for years.

The object is to be the player that controls the most space on

the board. Each turn, you place one of your pieces on the board. If you surround your opponent's pieces, you can replace them with your own ones. The rules are easy to learn. But if you and your friend are an even match, or if you play against the computer opponent.

Othello will challenge you for years.

At last! Software companies are starting to design Nintendo games that challenge your brain as well as your reflexes. —R.G.



COMPUTER FOR YOUR PROGRAMS



Now that you've read about the latest amusement park rides, here's a very strange amusement park of your own. In this confusing but amusing game, the aim is to get out of the amusement park. But there's a catch. There's a man at the gate who won't let you out without the password.

The password is a five-letter word and the letters have been scattered in the rides of the park. When you go on the rides, keep your eyes open and maybe you'll see them. Some rides may have no letters, others may have more than one. It's different every time you play. (So is the password.)

If you get the five letters but can't figure out the word, try going to Mix and Match. There's a computer there that will help you. And keep track of your money and how you're feeling. Too many rides can make vou sick.

The program is written for Apple II computers. To change it for IBM machines, change line 5 to CLS, and add line 12 RANDOMIZE TIMER, To change it for the Commodore 64/128, change line 5 to PRINT CHR\$(147), and add line 12 J = RND (-TI).

- GOTO 10 1
- HOME 5
- RETURN 8
- DIM W\$(15), R\$(5,5), C(5) 10
- TIME1 = 4000: TIME2 -15
- $N = 25 \cdot I = 1$ 20

- FOR X = 1 TO 15 30
- READ A\$: W\$(X) = A\$40
- NEXT X 50
- FOR X = 1 TO 560
- FORY = 1TO 570
- $R$(X,Y) = {}^{n_1 t}:C(X) = 1$ 80
- NEXT Y: NEXT X 90
- W INT (RND(1) \* 16) + 1 100
- FOR X = 5 TO 1 STEP 1 110
- 120
- Y = INT(RND(1) \* 5) + 1130
- IF R\$(Y,D) <> "" THEN D = 140
- D + 1: GOTO 140
- R\$(Y,D) = MID\$(W\$(W),X,1):150 PRINT R\$(Y,D);
- 160 **NEXT X**
- GOSUB 5 170
- IF I > 5.5 THEN 1350 180
- PRINT "CONFUSING 190
- AMUSING PARK"
- PRINT PRINT 200 TAB(5);"RIDE",,"COST"
- PRINT "1) TWIRLING 210
- TERROR","5.00"
- PRINT "2) REPULSIVE 220
  - ROLLER","2.00"
- PRINT "3) HAUNTED 230
  - HORROR ","3.00"
- PRINT "4) SOGGY SLIDE", 240
- PRINT "5) MIX AND 250
- MATCH", "2.00"
- PRINT "6) DEADLY DROP", 260
- PRINT "7) LET ME OUTTA 270 HERE!"
- PRINT PRINT "YOU HAVE 280
- \$",N **GOSUB 1410** 290
- PRINT "YOU FEEL ":I\$ 300
- PRINT: PRINT "PICK A RIDE 310 BY NUMBER"
- INPUT P\$ 320
- P = VAL(P\$)
- 330 ON P GOTO 360,490,640, 340
  - 770,880,1150,1250

- 350 **GOTO 170**
- REM TWIRLING TERROR 360
- GOSUB 5 · IF N < 5 THEN 370
- · 5:I= 1 + .7 N = N380
- PRINT "YOU ARE 390
- STRAPPED INTO A SMALL CAR"
- PRINT "IT RISES INTO THE 400
- PRINT "YOU START 410 SPINNING'
- PRINT "SUDDENLY IT 420 STOPS AND YOU DROP."
- IF R\$(1,C(1)) = "THEN 460 430
- PRINT "THE LETTER " 440 R\$(1,C(1));" FLASHES BY"
- C(1) = C(1) + 1450
- PRINT "LUCKILY, THE CAR 460 STOPS FIVE INCHES FROM THE GROUND"
- FOR DE = 1 TO TIME1. 470 NEXT DE
- **GOTO 178** 480
- REM REPULSIVE ROLLER 490
- GOSUB 5: IF N < 2 THEN 500
- N = N 2: I = 1 + .5
- 510 PRINT "YOU SIT IN THE
- FRONT SEAT" PRINT "OF A GLEAMING 530
- ROLLER COASTER '
- PRINT "SLOWLY, IT ROLLS 540 UPHILL'
- PRINT "YOUR STOMACH 550 RISES AS YOU DROP"
- PRINT "YOU HEAR 560
- SOMEONE SCREAMING" IF R\$ (2,C(2)) = "" THEN
- 570
- PRINT "THE LETTER"; 580 R\$(2,C(2)); " FLASHES BY"
- C(2) = C(2) + 1590
- FOR DE 1 TO TIME2 600 NEXT DE
- PRINT "THE RIDE STOPS 610 AND YOU STUMBLE OUT."
- FOR DE = 1 TO TIME1: 620 NEXT DE
- **GOTO 170** 630
- REM HAUNTED HORROR 640
- GOSUB 5: IF N < 3 THEN 650 1380
- 3:1-1+.5 660



PRINT "YOU SEE THE

FOR DE = 1 TO TIME1.

GOSUB 5 REMEXIT

GATE STOPS YOU '

PASSWORD "

**INPUT P\$** 

PRINT 'A MAN AT THE

PRINT HE ASKS FOR THE

IF P\$ W\$(W) THEN 1330

THE TABLE '

NEXT DE

**GOTO 170** 

C(5) = C(5) + 1

1220

1230

1240

1250

1260

1270

1280

LETTER ", R\$(5,C(5)), " ON

880

890

900

910

920

930

940

950

960

1380

N = N

THE WALL

TO BE MIXED '

OF LETTERS"

REM MIX AND MATCH

PRINT "YOU ARE IN A

SMALL DARK ROOM."

COMPUTER SCREEN ON

PRINT "ENTER LETTERS

IF LEN(M\$) - 5 THEN 980

PRINT "WRONG NUMBER

PRINT "THERE IS A

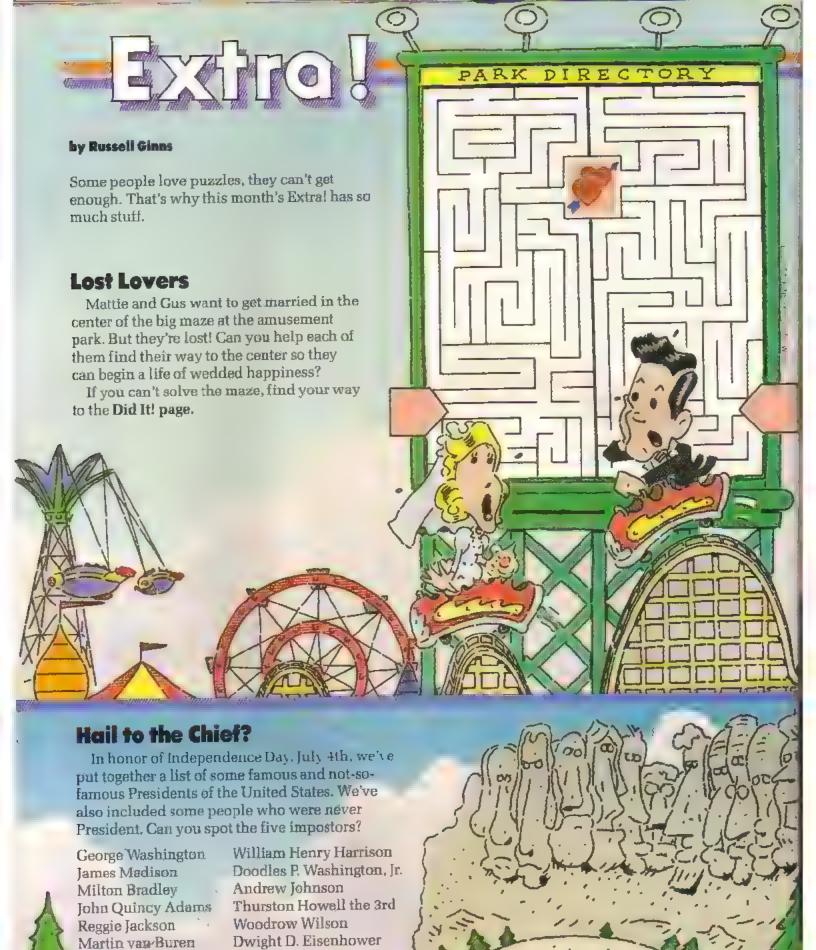
GOSUB 5 IF N < 2 THEN

If you've written a program you'd like us to print, send it in. If we like it, we'll print it and send you • \$25. Include a note telling us your name, address, age, T-shirt size and type of computer.

All programs must be your own original work. We cannot return programs. Please do not send disks.

Send your program to:

Basic Training 3-2-1 CONTACT Magazine 1 Lincoln Plaza New York, NY 10023



The answer to this puzzle isn't in the White House -it's on the Did It! page.

Jimmy Carter

38

Mildred Pierce





#### **Cat Chat**

8 hours were both partly sunny and partly cloudy. Bob counted the same hours twice!

#### What's Wrong with this Picture?

Here are some of the many things that are incorrect: The ocean liner is upside down. There is no boat pulling the water skier. According to the sign, swimming is only allowed for one minute every day. There are Easter eggs in the coconut tree. If you buy three bananas, you'll have to pay extra money. There is an igloo on the beach. There's a mermaid on one of the beach blankets. The man in the tuxedo is fishing with a broom. The thermometer reads 20 degrees—that's below freezing. According to the sign, you can only swim when there's no lifeguard. The monkey in the tree has five hands!

**Family Sighs** 

Ripley U. Off charged \$1.00 for the first hour, twice as much for the second hour, and so on. Bad deal. Here's how much the tent really cost:

1st hour: \$1. 2nd hour: \$2. 3rd hour: \$4. 4th hour: \$8. 5th hour: \$16. 6th hour: \$32. 7th hour: \$64. 8th hour: \$128. Total cost = \$255.

#### Square One Wants to Know

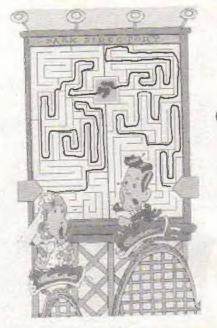
1) The bus was driving in reverse: facing west, going east. 2) They are equal. They both weigh one pound. 3) Amy is Eve's mother. Ruth is Amy's mother and Eve's grandmother. 4) At 3¢ a glass, 50 glasses cost you \$1.50. You sold them all for 10¢. You lose \$1.40. 5) All of them. 6) 23×0=51×0

#### Extra!

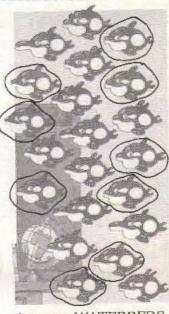
#### Hail to the Chief?

Milton Bradley/Reggie Jackson/Mildred Pierce/Doodles P. Washington, Jr./Thurston Howell the 3rd

#### **Lost Lovers**



#### Whale School



Answer: WATERBEDS

#### **Next Month!**

Circus Days

A circus in Peru, IN, is different from any circus CONTACT has ever visited. It's staffed by kids—from the trapeze artists to the clowns!

## CONTACT Goes to the Movies

Get a behind-the-scenes look at how movie-makers create all the weird sounds you hear in the movies. And get a chance to make your own incredible sounds!

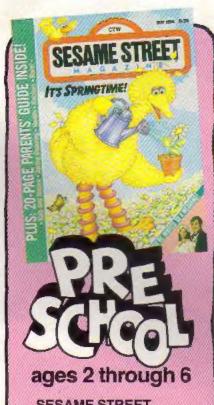
#### **Animal Tales**

Dogs have learned to live with humans.
Why haven't tigers?

And much, much more!

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and watch the fun and learning begin!

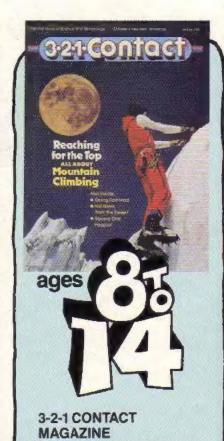


#### SESAME STREET MAGAZINE

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Packother...



## SQUA)LD-IN

Eric and Ray are trying to get to the Campgrounds. But there's something directions! By studying the directions, they'll end up? For the answer, fold

2) Grab the top left corner and fold back in half again so that "A" is next to "B" like this:

| Corner and fold back in half again again again so that "A" is next to "B" like this:

